

Remarks

Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 136 to 173 are pending in the application, with claims 136 and 142 being the independent claims. Claims 1 to 135 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 136 to 173 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Support for new claims 136 to 173 is found, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0036], [0060] to [0065], [0091], [0092], [0151] to [0154], and [0216] to [0230].

Amendments to the Drawings

The deletion of Figures 29A, 29B and 29C is sought.

Changes are sought to correct obvious defects in the informal drawings, prior to submission of formal drawings. Attached herewith is a "Request to Approve Proposed Drawing Corrections," copies of six (6) sheets of drawings, containing proposed corrections to Figures 3, 13, 14, 15, 30, and 31, shown in red. For comparison purposes, unmarked original and amended drawings are also provided. The proposed changes add no new matter to this application.

In Figure 3, the letter H had been overlaid on O, C, and N, obscuring the identity of the functional group. It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the correct functional groups are OH, CH₂, and NH or NH₂ respectively. Similarly, the negative

charge sign (-) was incorrectly overlain upon certain O groups. The (-) has been moved so that the "O-" can be clearly seen.

In Figure 13, the 11th letter in the second methylated strand should obviously be a letter G, not an A, corresponding to the letter G at the same position in the other 3 strands shown. Essentially the same nucleotide sequence is found in Figures 13 through 15.

In Figure 14, obvious errors in the sequence have been corrected to ensure that the sequences are the same in Figures 13, 14 and 15. To that end, the 11th letter in both strands is changed from A to G; the 22nd letter in the deaminated unmethylated DNA has been changed from G to A; and the fifth letter in the deaminated methylated DNA has been changed from Me-U to Me-C.

In Figure 15 it is clear that the nucleotide in the left and right strands do not correctly align. The DNA sequence in the left strand has now been shifted down one nucleotide, so that all nucleotides correctly align.

All of the above errors were most likely introduced as a result of an error by the original draftsman of the informal drawings and have been corrected in the replacement sheets of drawings. These corrections are sought to bring the drawings into conformity with the description.

Figures 29A, 29B and 29C have been cancelled. This cancellation has no effect on the patentability of the claims and thus are not required for written description or enablement support. To correctly number the subsequent Figures, renumbering of Figures 30 and 31 is sought. These changes introduce no new matter.

Applicant requests that the Examiner approve the proposed corrections. After official communication of such approval, Applicants will submit appropriately corrected formal drawings

Amendments to the Specification

Amendment to the first page of the specification is sought to more clearly state the priority claims, and to make reference to the publication of the priority application.

Amendment to the specification at paragraphs [0069] to [0071] and at paragraph [0244] are sought in order to conform the specification with the drawings, following the deletion of original figures 29A through C. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,086

Date: March 3, 2004
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600